

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A hermetically sealed four piece microwavable metallic container, comprising:

a metallic sidewall portion comprising a lower end and an upper end and which defines a height of at least about two inches;

5 a metallic lid which is sealingly interconnected to said upper end of said metallic sidewall portion;

a microwavable transparent bottom which is interconnected to said lower end of said metallic sidewall portion and has a surface area of at least about 1.25 square inches;

10 a metallic reinforcing member which is distinct from said metallic sidewall and operably interconnected to a perimeter edge of said microwavable transparent bottom and a lower end of said metallic sidewall portion, wherein a hermetic seal is created while permitting microwave energy to pass through at least a central portion of said microwave transparent bottom.

21. Cancelled.

22. (Original) The metallic container of Claim 20, further comprising a sealing material positioned in contact with said hermetic seal.

23. (Original) The four piece metallic container of Claim 20, wherein said reinforcing member, said microwavable transparent bottom and said lower end of said sidewall are seamed in a cross-sectional configuration which has at least five distinct layers.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) The four piece metallic container of Claim 20, further comprising a selectively removable plastic lid positioned on said upper end of said metallic sidewall portion, and which is adapted to be positioned on said microwavable metal container after removal of said metallic lid.

26. (Original) The four piece metallic container of Claim 25, wherein said removable plastic lid further comprises a plurality of apertures to allow the venting of steam and heat during cooking of a foodstuff stored in said four piece microwavable container.

27. (Original) The four piece microwavable metallic container of Claim 20, wherein said upper end of said container has a diameter which is distinct from said lower end.

28. (New) The microwavable metallic container of Claim 20, wherein said metallic sidewall is comprised of a non-layered steel material with a tin alloy.